



# Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Updates

**Bernard Simons, DDA Deputy Secretary**

June 19, 2020



# Deputy Secretary's Agenda

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- Opening Remarks
- DDA Regional Office Update
- Transition Youth Communication Update
- Reopening at the Local Regional Regions Discussion Update
- Questions

# Deputy Secretary's Opening Remarks

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- The DDA's highest priority is the health, safety, and wellbeing of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, staff, and providers
- Maryland has broadened the criteria for COVID-19 testing to include those who are asymptomatic. There are now more than 150 major testing sites in Maryland. Visit [coronavirus.maryland.gov](https://coronavirus.maryland.gov) to find a location that is most convenient for you

# Deputy Secretary's Opening Remarks

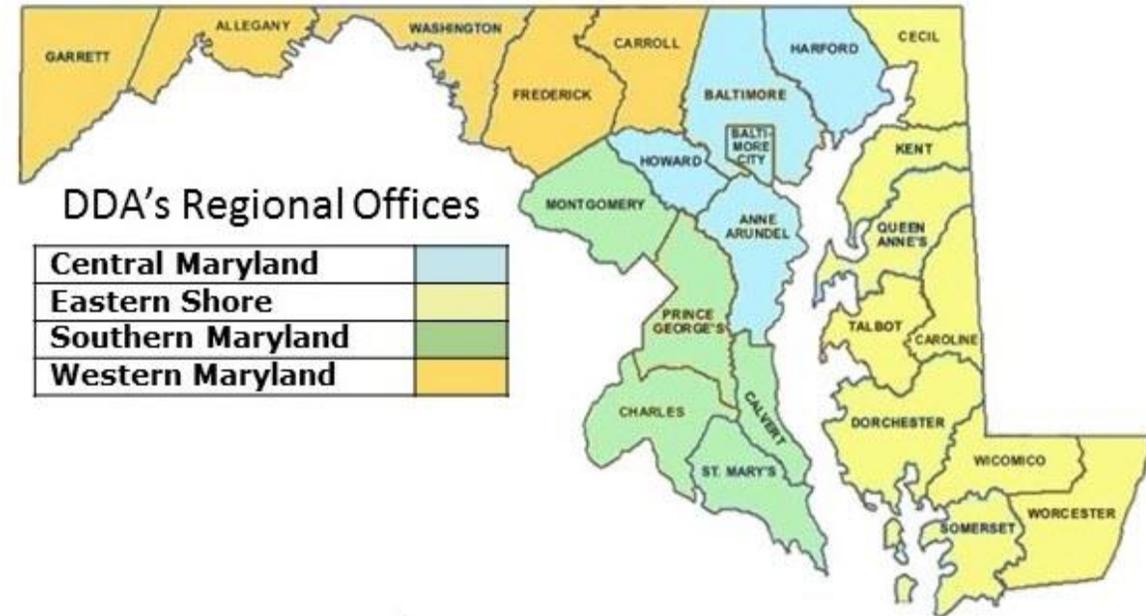
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- FY'21 Q1 payment - DDA is processing the first quarterly payment based on the FY'20 rates
- Payment will be made on or before July 6, 2020
- Per Department of Budget and Management - A final decision on rates will be made early in the fiscal year and rates / payments will be adjusted accordingly

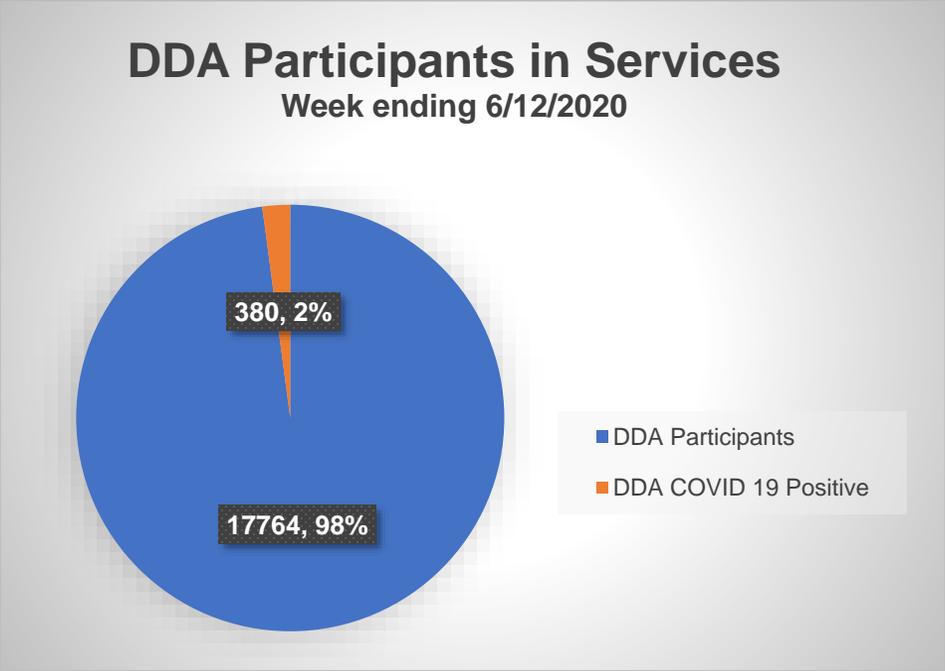
# Regional Updates

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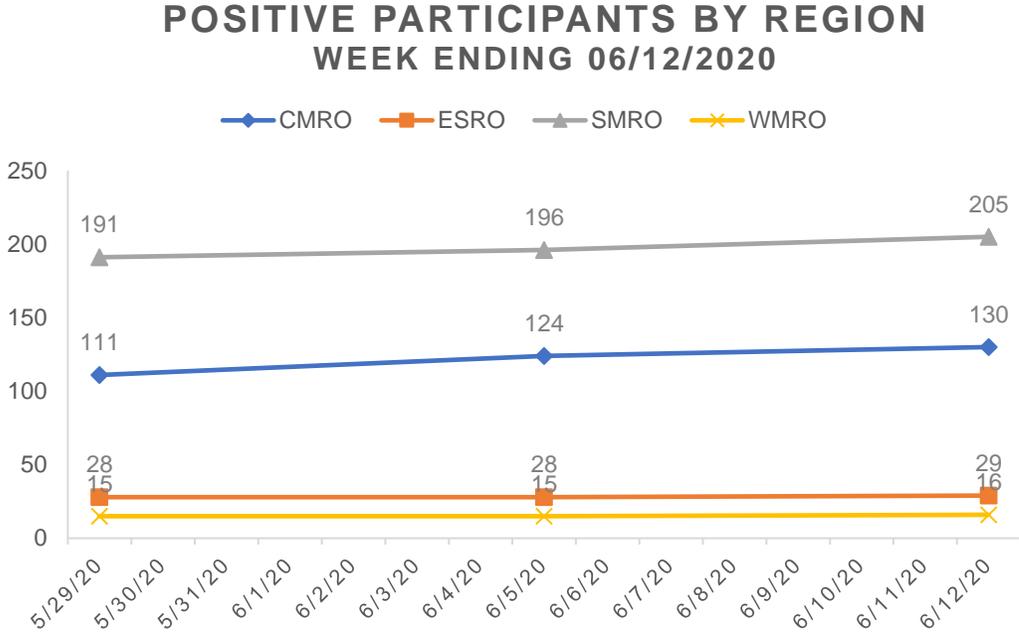
- **SMRO**- Onesta Duke  
[onestaduke@maryland.gov](mailto:onestaduke@maryland.gov)
- **ESRO**- Kim Gscheidle  
[kimberlygscheidle@maryland.gov](mailto:kimberlygscheidle@maryland.gov)
- **CMRO**- Nicholas Burton  
[nicholasburton@maryland.gov](mailto:nicholasburton@maryland.gov)
- **WMRO**- Cathy Marshall  
[cathymarshall@maryland.gov](mailto:cathymarshall@maryland.gov)



# DDA's Tracking



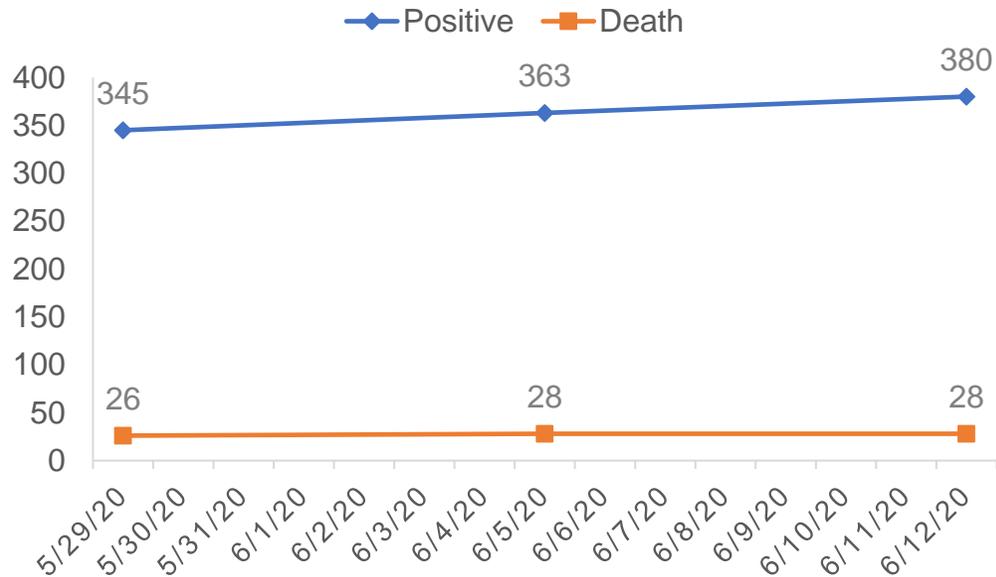
There are 17,764 people supported in services by the DDA of which 2% (380) have tested positive for COVID-19.



CMRO 130 Positive; Increase of 6  
 ESRO 29 Positive; Increase of 1  
 SMRO 205 Positive; Increase of 9  
 WMRO 16 Positive; Increase of 1

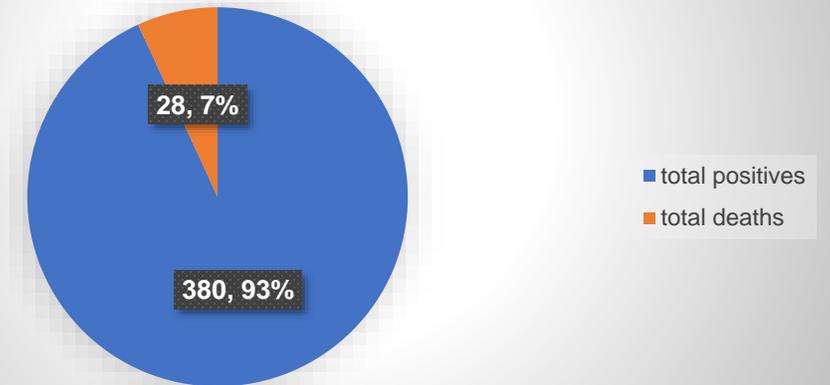
# DDA Tracking

**POSITIVE PARTICIPANTS  
STATEWIDE WEEK ENDING 06/12/2020**



There have been 380 participants reported as having tested positive for COVID-19 of which there have been 28 deaths.

**DDA COVID-19  
Positives and Death  
Week ending 6/12/2020**



The 28 deaths represents approximately 7% of all (380) participants that tested positive.

# The DDA Commitment

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- We will continue to share information and resources
- We will continue to collaborate and advocate on behalf of the people you support, their families, and staff
- We will help Marylanders with intellectual and developmental disabilities thrive
- We will continue to keep you updated

*Rhonda Workman, Director of Federal Programs*

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# **Transitioning Youth Communication**

# Transitioning Youth

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- Transitioning Youth (TY) are individuals with a developmental disability who qualify for a special, reserved category on the DDA's Waiting List for initiation of DDA-funded services
- If an individual meets the criteria for TY, then they are generally eligible to apply for enrollment in a DDA Medicaid Waiver program
- Potential TY include youth transitioning out from local school systems, public agencies, and private schools, the Autism Waiver, and the foster care system

# Transitioning Youth

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- TY and families are encouraged to explore services delivery models and service providers prior to transitioning out
- Beginning in January, TY eligible to apply for enrollment in a DDA Medicaid Waiver program receive assistance with the waiver application process
- TY must meet the DDA Waivers specific technical, medical, and financial eligibility criteria and provide supporting documentation (*e.g.* bank statements, income, trust, etc.)

# Transitioning Youth

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Fiscal Year	# TY	# Pending DDA Waiver Application	# Pending Final Determination	# Enrolled in DDA Waiver
2020	738	116	50	572
2021	703	440	114	149

Data source: LTSS*Maryland* report June 18, 2020

# Transitioning Youth

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On Tuesday, June 16th, the DDA shared:

- A memorandum titled “[Extending Transition Timeframe for Autism Waiver Participants Exiting the School System and/or “Aging Out” During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)” from Deputy Secretary Simons, Marlana R. Hutchinson, Acting Director Office of Long Term Services and Supports, Marcella E. Franczkowski, Assistant State Superintendent Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services Maryland State Department of Education
- [Autism Waiver Transitioning Youth 2021 Guidance](#)
- [At a Glance - COVID- 19 - Transitioning Youth](#)

# Transitioning Youth

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- A provision of the Autism Waiver Appendix K includes the ability to continue funding for services covered by its waiver program application for individuals who are 22 years of age or older during the COVID-19 state of emergency
- This means Autism Waiver participants, who would otherwise be disenrolled from the Autism Waiver on June 30th, can remain in the Autism Waiver, and continue to receive services funded by the Autism Waiver, even though they have completed or concluded their entitled educational services

# Transitioning Youth

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- The guidance includes processes for both Autism Waiver Service Coordinators and DDA Coordinators of Community Services to support eligible Autism Waiver TYs and their families in making an informed decision as to whether to disenroll from the Autism Waiver or to continue and transition at a later date
- We have already begun to receive decisions from TY and families and are taking action to support the continued enrollment in the Autism Waiver

*REOPENING*

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# **CMRO E-WORKGROUP DISCUSSION**

# FRAMEWORK CONSIDERATIONS

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# EQUITY

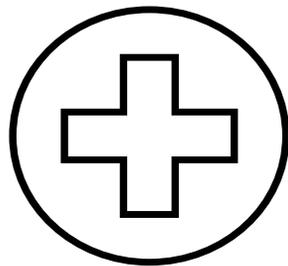
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- **PURPOSE**
- **POWER**
- **OUTCOME**
- **BARRIERS**
- **PEOPLE**
- **COLLABORATION**
- **FLEXIBILITY**

# SAFETY

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As we begin to move our communities forward and reopen society, safety shall be at the forefront of the decisions we make and actions we take. The Maryland DDA is committed to the health and safety of people with disabilities, our providers, and the community at large



# CONSIDERATIONS

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- What are the orders of the Governor of Maryland to slow the spread of COVID-19?
- What are your agencies local jurisdictions orders related to slowing the spread of COVID-19?
- How is your agency implementing the recommendations of MDH/CDC liaison Dr. Feder particularly as it pertains to?
  - Visitors
  - Community Engagement
  - Social distancing
  - Use of PPE
  - Screening tools
- What is the individual health and safety needs of people you support and how will that factor into your agency's decisions moving forward?
- Does your agency have enough PPE to control the spread of COVID-19? If not, how will you obtain necessary PPE to safely move forward, considering the possibility of a resurgence?
- Has your agency updated its emergency safety plan to address COVID-19 and a possible resurgence?

# COLLABORATION

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As a person driven system, the DDA encourages agencies, individuals, their families, and CCS's come together as a team to discuss what moving forward looks like for each individual person. The DDA is also committed to collaborating with our stakeholders to ensure you have up to date safety information through our collaboration with Dr. Feder, further appendix K guidance, and supporting each other as we navigate a path forward



# CONSIDERATIONS

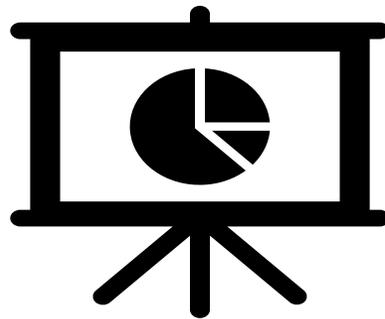
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- Who will be key partners in your agencies reopening decisions?
- How will you involve people and families in decisions moving forward?
- How will you collaborate with individual teams to determine the health and safety support needs of each person you support keeping in mind Dr. Feder's recommendations and local jurisdiction orders?
- How can you collaborate with partner agencies as you determine best practices moving forward?
- How will you collaborate with the DDA as you move forward?

# DATA

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In this public health emergency data has been the driver for most local jurisdictions. As your agency begins to look at how to reopen, it will be important to have the right data to make the right decisions. The DDA is also committed to utilizing Data and facts to drive our decisions as it relates to COVID-19 guidance and recommendations



# CONSIDERATIONS

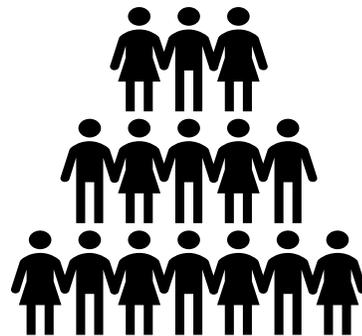
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- What data do we have as an agency?
- What data do we need?
- What data are our partners using to make decisions?
- What MDH/DDA would be helpful as we move forward?
- What local jurisdiction data is relevant to our reopening strategy?
- How will we use data to guide our process?
- How will we use data in the event of a resurgence?

# CAPACITY

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**As your agency begins to look at reopening, it will be important to look at capacity as it relates to health and safety considerations but also workforce, financial, technology, etc. The DDA is committed to supporting agencies build their capacity through provisions of the appendix K but also through out continued collaboration with Dr. Feder, CDC liaison with MDH**



# CONSIDERATIONS

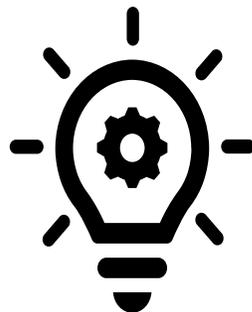
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- What is your agencies workforce capacity right now?
- What are the fiscal implications of reopening now?
- What capacity does your agency have to reopen all programs vs. a rolling reopening?
- What capacity does your agency have to look at alternative schedules?
- What capacity does your agency have to implement more remote support?
- What is the capacity of the individuals and families you are supporting to return safely?
- What is your agencies capacity to respond to a resurgence?
- What is your agencies capacity to secure adequate PPE?
- How can we rely on community resources and supports to help meet peoples needs?

# INNOVATION

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As we all look for a path forward, innovation is going to be key to ensure we can meet the challenges of the day and provide the health and safety supports people need to live the good life in their communities and with their families. The DDA is committed to supporting creative and innovative ideas that are in alignment with our mission and values



# CONSIDERATIONS

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- What do families and individuals need to be safe but also engage in their community and build relationships?
- How can we increase our use of technology to support individuals, families, and agencies?
- How do we ensure greater flexibility around accessing supports and reducing burdens to accessing those supports?
- What does case management look like as we move forward?
- What ideas would you share with your local partners?
- What ideas would share with the DDA?
- How can we work to identify and connect with community resources to enhance the other supports individuals receive in their lives?

# NEXT STEPS

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- **INCORPORATE FEEDBACK**
- **SHARE WITH ALL FOR REVIEW**
- **POST ON THE DDA WEBSITE AS A RESOURCE**

*REOPENING*

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# **ESRO E-WORKGROUP DISCUSSION**

# Eastern Shore Regional Office (ESRO)

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- Focused on:
  - Individual Level Considerations
  - Provider Level Considerations
  - System Level Consideration
- Using the filters of health, safety, capacity, and lessons learned about new and creative ways of help people update their goals and achieve desired outcomes
- Created a google drive to share resources for the benefit of providers to use and contribute to as we continue this journey
- Our providers are at different points in their transition plans for their agencies

# Key Points

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- All are making efforts to be person centered and are reaching out to families in many ways to survey their opinions, offer them supports on site where necessary and to make visits
- Many are making good use of remote access but there are big issues with rural areas having lack of connectivity as well as staff training issues
- Some providers have been able to continue to accept applications and even begin services for new individuals with appropriate testing, PPE, etc. Some individuals were able to remain in essential jobs with staff support and a person was even able to start a new job with accommodations to support a job coach

# In Summary....

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- Providers reported that they found this meeting helpful
- Providers stated that the google drive will be very useful
- Providers would like to meet again in 2 weeks

# Questions

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